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Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Kadra Ahmed **Hassan** (Djibouti)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled:

"Advancement of women:

"(a) Advancement of women;

"(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 9th to 13th, 15th, 22nd, 28th, 41st, 42nd, 44th, 46th and 48th meetings, from 10 to 13, on 18 and 21 October and on 3, 8, 15, 18 and 21 November 2011. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/66/SR.9-13, 15, 22, 28, 41, 42, 44, 46 and 48).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions (A/66/38);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/66/99);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/66/181);

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(d) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/66/211);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (A/66/212);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (A/66/215);

(g) Letter dated 1 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/66/87).

4. At the 9th meeting, on 10 October, the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, UN-Women made an introductory statement and responded to a question raised and a comment made by the representative of Kenya (see A/C.3/66/SR.9).

5. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, made a statement and responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of Algeria, Zambia, Australia, the United States of America, Liechtenstein, the Niger, the European Union, Cameroon, Benin and Sierra Leone (see A/C.3/66/SR.9).

6. Also at the 9th meeting, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made a statement and responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of Costa Rica, Liechtenstein, the European Union, Algeria, Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries) and Timor-Leste (see A/C.3/66/SR.9).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.3/66/L.18 and Rev.1

7. At the 28th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Argentina, Belarus, Guatemala, Indonesia, Honduras, Peru, and the Philippines, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Violence against women migrant workers" (A/C.3/66/L.18), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,

"*Reaffirming* the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development and their reviews,

"*Welcoming* the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and expressing hope that it will robustly support national efforts to end violence against women migrant workers, in the light of the focus of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2011-2013 on increasing women's access to economic empowerment, including women migrant and domestic workers, as well as the policy and programmatic work of UN-Women on empowering women migrant workers worldwide and the commitment in the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session to implementing gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers, ensuring that all women, including care workers, are legally protected from violence and exploitation, providing safe and legal migration channels that recognize women migrant workers' skills and education, and fair labour conditions, and facilitating their productive employment and decent work and integration into the labour force,

"*Recalling* the discussions during the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 14 and 15 September 2006, which recognized, inter alia, the need for special protection for migrant women, and noting that another high-level dialogue on the same theme will be held in 2013,

"*Welcoming* the adoption of Convention No. 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers and Recommendation No. 201 on the same subject by the International Labour Conference on 16 June 2011, at its 100th session and general comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers, adopted by the Committee on Migrant Workers in December 2010, and calling for the ratification of Convention No. 189 of the International Labour Organization and its implementation, and the implementation of general comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers and of general recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in November 2008, acknowledging that they are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

"*Recognizing* the increasing participation of women in international migration, driven in large part by socio-economic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

"*Stressing* the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, and in that regard recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels, especially targeted measures to specifically address discrimination and violence against women migrant workers,

"*Recognizing* that women migrant workers are important contributors to social and economic development, through the economic and social benefits accruing as a result of their work to countries of origin and destination, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic workers,

"*Recognizing also* the particular vulnerability of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment, and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to and reintegration in their countries of origin,

"*Expressing deep concern* at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence, trafficking, domestic and family violence, racist and xenophobic acts, abusive labour practices and exploitative conditions of work,

"*Recognizing* that the intersection of, inter alia, gender, age, class and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers, and that violence is a form of discrimination,

"*Reaffirming* the commitment to protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, rural women and indigenous women who migrate for work, and in that regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as appropriate,

"*Concerned* that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in that regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent abuse and exploitation, and observing with concern that many women migrant workers take on jobs for which they may be overqualified and in which, at the same time, they may be more vulnerable because of poor pay and inadequate social protection,

"*Emphasizing* the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, and gender-sensitive indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of targeted policies and concrete strategies to specifically address discrimination, in particular violence against women migrant workers,

"*Realizing* that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be facilitated through, inter alia, the Internet, and that those women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

"*Recognizing* the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

"*Encouraged* by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction and to promote access to justice, such as the establishment of gender-sensitive protection mechanisms for migrant workers, facilitating their access to reporting mechanisms or providing assistance during legal proceedings,

"*Underlining* the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and the relevant special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as all human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers, and to implement the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

"3. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, entitled 'Political economy of women's human rights', submitted to the Council at its eleventh session, in particular her elaboration in that report of the current issues of the exploitation and violence that women migrants face in the context of the current global economic trends and crises;

"4. *Encourages* all United Nations special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to improve the collection of information on and analysis of the current challenges facing women migrant workers, and also encourages Governments to cooperate with the special rapporteurs in this regard;

"5. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights, gender-sensitive and human-development-oriented perspective in legislation, policies and programmes on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments, for the prevention of and protection of migrant women against violence and discrimination, exploitation and abuse, and to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce any form of discrimination, including by conducting impact assessment studies of such legislation, policies and programmes and reporting on the impact of measures taken and the results achieved in regard to women migrant workers;

"6. *Also calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status, including in policies that regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration, inter alia in order to deter illegal migration, to incorporate a gender perspective in immigration laws in order to prevent discrimination and

violence against women, in particular in regard to independent migration and circular and temporary migration, and to permit women migrant workers who are victims of violence to apply for residency permits independently of abusive employers or spouses;

"7. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as well as to strengthen efforts to reduce the vulnerability of women migrant workers, including by fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin, by facilitating effective access to justice, and effective action in the areas of law enforcement and prosecution, prevention, capacity-building, victim protection and support, and by exchanging information and good practices in combating violence and discrimination against women migrant workers;

"8. *Also urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child by adopting or strengthening measures to promote and protect the human rights of migrant girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their immigration status, so as to prevent labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, including in domestic work;

"9. *Further urges* Governments, in cooperation with all stakeholders, especially the private sector, including employment agencies involved in recruiting women migrant workers, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, the overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries promote adherence to and respect for the human rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

"10. *Encourages* all States to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, including by reducing transaction costs and implementing woman-friendly remittance transfer, savings and investment schemes, including diaspora investment schemes, in conformity with applicable legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

"11. *Calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status, to have access to health care, including emergency health care, and in that regard to ensure that women migrant workers are not discriminated against on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth and, in accordance with national legislation, to address the vulnerabilities to HIV experienced by migrant populations and support their access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

"12. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women migrant domestic workers, to include therein robust monitoring and inspection mechanisms, in line with relevant International Labour Organization conventions and other instruments, to ensure compliance with international obligations, and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to gender-sensitive, transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against employers, while stressing that such instruments should not punish women migrant workers, and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations of their rights;

"13. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence with the full range of immediate assistance, protection and gender-sensitive services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate to which they are entitled in accordance with human rights standards, irrespective of their immigration status, such as access to counselling, legal and consular assistance and temporary shelter, as well as mechanisms to allow the views and concerns of victims to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, to the extent possible, as well as to establish and expand comprehensive reintegration and rehabilitation schemes for returning women migrant workers and their families;

"14. *Also calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions in order to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and gender-sensitive redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively, as well as to ensure that migrant women victims of violence do not suffer from revictimization, including by authorities, by implementing measures that include allowing women migrant workers with legal claims concerning violations of their rights the option of remaining in the country of destination to pursue their claims;

"15. *Urges* all States to adopt effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

"16. *Encourages* Governments to formulate and implement training programmes for their law enforcers, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, prosecutors and service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public-sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions;

"17. *Also encourages* Governments to ensure coherence between migration, labour and anti-trafficking legislation, policies and programmes, based on a human rights, gender-sensitive and human-development-oriented perspective, to promote safe and legal migration, to ensure that the human rights of women migrant workers are protected throughout the migration

process and to prevent violence, prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims and their families;

"18. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, to ensure that, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, the competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality, and in this regard to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality;

"19. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that are, inter alia, gender-sensitive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment and to continue to support national efforts to address violence against women migrant workers in a coordinated way that ensures effective implementation, enhances their impact and strengthens positive outcomes for women migrant workers;

"20. *Encourages* Governments to formulate policies that: are based on up-to-date, relevant sex-disaggregated data and analysis and the institutionalized engagement of women migrant workers throughout the policy process; are adequately resourced; have measurable targets and indicators, timetables, monitoring and accountability measures, in particular for employment agencies, employers and public officials; provide for impact assessments and ensure multi-sector coordination within and between countries of origin, transit and destination through appropriate mechanisms;

"21. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and UN-Women, to develop and enhance appropriate sex disaggregated national data-collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies that will generate comparable data and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process, and to further study the costs of violence against women, including migrant workers, to the women themselves, their families and their communities;

"22. *Further encourages* Governments to utilize the same data and tracking and reporting systems to analyse the opportunities available to women migrant workers and their contributions to development, and support the improvement of macro data on remittances, for appropriate policy formulation and implementation;

"23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive, analytical and thematic report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, specifically with regard to access to

justice for women migrant workers, highlighting the impact of legislation, policies and programmes on women migrant workers and taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the reports of special rapporteurs that refer to the situation of women migrant workers and other relevant sources, such as the International Organization for Migration, including non-governmental organizations."

8. At its 48th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Violence against women migrant workers" (A/C.3/66/L.18/Rev.1), submitted by Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Brazil, Chile, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Timor-Leste, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Grenada, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.18/Rev.1 (see para. 26, resolution I).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.3/66/L.19 and Rev.1

10. At the 22nd meeting, on 18 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Guatemala, Haiti, Madagascar, Mongolia, the Niger and Peru, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas" (A/C.3/66/L.19), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 56/129 of 19 December 2001, 58/146 of 22 December 2003, 60/138 of 16 December 2005, 62/136 of 18 December 2007 and 64/140 of 18 December 2009,

"*Welcoming* the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to consider empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges as its priority theme at its fifty-sixth session, in 2012,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the United Nations conferences and summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women, including indigenous women, in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

"(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of rural women and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and their full participation in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist, based on internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals;

"(b) Pursuing the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, and support for women's organizations, labour unions or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights;

"(c) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women, including indigenous women and women with disabilities, through their organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of gender equality and rural development programmes and strategies;

"(d) Ensuring that perspectives of rural women are taken into account and that they participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against rural women in this regard;

"(e) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation, follow up and evaluation of development policies and programmes, including budget policies, paying increased attention to the needs of rural women so as to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

"(f) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women through improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes, and health and social support measures, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services;

"(g) Strengthening measures, including resource generation to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health through addressing the specific health needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of health for women in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services, including in such areas of sexual and reproductive health as prenatal and post-natal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning information and increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS;

"(h) Designing and implementing national policies that promote and protect the enjoyment by rural women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence;

"(i) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection/social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources, and empowerment of older women through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on support to older women including indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are more vulnerable;

"(j) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, inter alia, through their participation in decision-making processes;

"(k) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas, in particular female-headed households, for their economic empowerment;

"(l) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

"(m) Integrating increased employment opportunities for rural women into all international and national development strategies and poverty eradication strategies, including by expanding non-agricultural employment opportunities, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

"(n) Taking steps towards ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are recognized, and supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment of rural women, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

"(o) Promoting programmes to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share, equally with women, household and childcare responsibilities;

"(p) Considering the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of women in indigenous and local communities relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and indigenous technologies;

"(q) Addressing the lack of timely, reliable and sex-disaggregated data, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

"(r) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

"(s) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system that considers the specific needs of rural women in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and discriminatory tendencies affecting them;

"(t) Developing the capacity of personnel working in the areas of national development strategies, rural development, agricultural development, poverty eradication and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to identify and address the challenges and constraints facing rural women, including through training programmes and the development and dissemination of methodologies and tools, while acknowledging technical assistance of relevant United Nations agencies;

"3. *Strongly encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to take measures to identify and address any negative impact of the current global crises on women in rural areas, including on legislation, policies and programmes that strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women;

"4. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies;

"5. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full participation in the area of information and communication technology, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global, regional and national information and communications technology strategies;

"6. *Calls upon* Member States to take into consideration the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning their reports to the Committee when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

"7. *Invites* Governments to undertake participatory needs and impact assessments for the economic empowerment of rural women, to adopt, on the basis of such assessments, gender-responsive rural development strategies and budget frameworks, and to ensure that the needs and priorities of rural women and girls are addressed systematically, that they can effectively contribute to

poverty and hunger eradication and that appropriate budgets are allocated for the implementation of such strategies and for the delivery of local services;

"8. *Encourages* Governments and international organizations to integrate the perspective of rural and indigenous women into the preparations for and outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 4 to 6 June 2012, with a view to accelerating progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in rural areas;

"9. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed in its resolution 62/136;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

11. At the 44th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas" (A/C.3/66/L.19/Rev.1) submitted by Argentina, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Costa Rica, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Israel, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, the Niger, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and the United States of America. Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Ecuador, Finland, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Malaysia, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Portugal, Serbia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.19/Rev.1 (see para. 26, resolution II).

C. Draft resolutions A/C.3/66/L.20 and Rev.1

13. At the 28th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Norway, Palau, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women and political participation" (A/C.3/66/L.20), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, and guided by the purposes and principles of human rights instruments,

"*Reaffirming also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to take part in the Government of his or her country directly or through freely chosen representatives, and the right of equal access to public service,

"*Guided* by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which affirms human rights and fundamental freedoms and equality for women around the world,

"*Reaffirming* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century',

"*Recognizing* the important contributions that women have made towards the achievement of representative, transparent and accountable Governments in many countries,

"*Stressing* the critical importance of women's political participation in all contexts, including in times of peace and conflict and in all stages of political transition, concerned that many obstacles still prevent women from participating in political life on equal terms with men, and noting in that regard that situations of political transition provide a unique opportunity to address such obstacles,

"*Recognizing* the essential contributions that women around the world continue to make to the achievement and maintenance of international peace and security and to the full realization of human rights; to the promotion of sustainable development and economic growth; and to the eradication of poverty, hunger and disease,

"*Reaffirming* that the active participation of women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of equality, sustainable development, peace and democracy,

"*Highly concerned* that women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere, often as a result of discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes and cultural stereotypes, and owing to poverty disproportionately affecting women,

"*Recognizing* the importance of empowering all women through education and training in Government, public policy, economics, civics, information technology and science to ensure that they develop the knowledge and skills needed to make full contributions to society and the political process,

"*Reaffirming* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding and the need for Member States and the United Nations system to increase the role of women in decision-

making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and the rebuilding of post-conflict societies, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010, and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

"*Recognizing* the central role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in leading, coordinating and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women within the United Nations system and worldwide,

"*Noting with appreciation* the establishment by the Human Rights Council of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice,

"1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 58/142 of 22 December 2003 on women and political participation and calls upon all States to implement it fully;

"2. *Calls upon* all States to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that, in a discriminatory manner, prevent or restrict women's participation in the political process;

"3. *Also calls upon* all States, including in situations of political transition, to promote and protect the human rights of women with respect to:

"(a) Engaging in political activities;

"(b) Taking part in the conduct of public affairs;

"(c) Associating freely;

"(d) Assembling peacefully;

"(e) Expressing their views freely, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, through any media of their choice;

"(f) Voting in elections and public referendums and being eligible for election to publicly elected bodies on equal terms with men;

"(g) Participating in the formulation of Government policy and the implementation thereof, holding public office, and performing public functions at all levels of Government;

"4. *Calls upon* States in situations of political transition to take effective steps to ensure the participation of women on equal terms with men in all phases of political transition, including with respect to decisions on whether to call for change in existing institutions, decisions regarding transitional Governments, the formulation of Government policy and the means of electing new democratic Governments;

"5. *Urges* all States to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and also urges States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so;

"6. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to review their reservations lodged to the Convention regularly with a view of withdrawing them;

"7. *Urges* all States to take, inter alia, the following actions to ensure women's equal participation, and encourages the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, in accordance with their existing mandates, to enhance their assistance to States in their efforts to:

"(a) Review the differential impact of their electoral systems on the political participation of women and their representation in elected bodies and to adjust or reform those systems where appropriate;

"(b) Take all appropriate measures to eliminate prejudices that are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women and that constitute a barrier to women's access to and participation in the political sphere, and to adopt inclusive approaches to their political participation;

"(c) Strongly encourage political parties to remove all barriers that directly or indirectly discriminate against the participation of women, to develop their capacity to analyse issues from a gender perspective and to adopt policies, as appropriate, to promote the ability of women to participate fully at all levels of decision-making within those political parties;

"(d) Promote recognition of the importance of women's participation in the political process at the community, local, national and international levels;

"(e) Develop mechanisms and training to encourage women to participate in the electoral process, political activities and other leadership activities, and empower women to assume public responsibilities by developing and providing appropriate tools and skills, in consultation with women;

"(f) Implement appropriate measures within governmental bodies and public sector institutions to eliminate direct or indirect barriers to and enhance women's participation in all levels of political decision-making;

"(g) Accelerate the implementation of strategies, as appropriate, that promote gender balance in political decision-making;

"(h) Improve and broaden women's access to information and communication technology, including e-government tools, in order to enable political participation and promote engagement in broader democratic processes, while also improving the gender responsiveness of these tools and promoting their use by marginalized women;

"(i) Investigate allegations of violence, assault or harassment of women elected officials and candidates to political office, create an environment of zero tolerance for such offences and ensure accountability, and take all appropriate steps to prosecute those responsible;

"(j) Ensure that measures to reconcile family and professional life apply equally to women and men, bearing in mind that the sharing of family responsibilities between women and men helps to create an enabling environment for women's political participation;

"(k) Take proactive measures to address factors preventing or hindering women from participating in politics, such as violence, poverty, lack of access to quality education and health care, cultural stereotypes and the double burden of paid and unpaid work;

"(l) Monitor and evaluate progress in the representation of women in decision-making positions;

"8. *Encourages* States to implement fully and effectively Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and subsequent relevant resolutions, including by systematic attention to, recognition of and support for the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict and in peacebuilding efforts;

"9. *Also encourages* States to appoint women to posts within all levels of their Governments, including bodies responsible for designing constitutional, electoral, political or institutional reforms;

"10. *Further encourages* States to commit themselves to establishing the goal of gender balance in governmental bodies and committees, as well as in public administrative entities, and in the judiciary, including, inter alia and as appropriate, setting specific targets and implementing measures to substantially increase the number of women with a view to achieving equal representation of women and men, if necessary through positive action, in all governmental and public administration positions;

"11. *Encourages* States and relevant civil society organizations to support programmes that facilitate the participation of women in democratic political activities, including peer support and capacity development for new office holders, and to promote public/private civil society partnerships for women's empowerment;

"12. *Invites* States to exchange experience and best practices throughout the United Nations system on women's political participation, including on the participation of women in times of political transition;

"13. *Invites* the Human Rights Council Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice to continue to include in its work a focus on the political participation of women in times of political transition;

"14. *Encourages* States to disseminate the present resolution among all relevant institutions, in particular national, regional and local authorities, as well as among political parties;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including information on the political participation of women in times of political transition, and encourages Governments to cooperate with the Secretary-General by providing precise data on the political participation of women at all levels."

14. At its 46th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Women and political participation" (A/C.3/66/L.20/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.20 and Algeria, Argentina,

Belize, Egypt, Morocco, the Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino and Thailand. Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

15. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement and orally revised the text as follows:

(a) At the end of the fifth preambular paragraph, the words "supporting countries' efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide" were replaced by the words "supporting all countries' efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women";

(b) At the end of the seventh preambular paragraph, the word "may" was inserted before the word "provide";

(c) In the eighth preambular paragraph, the word "all" was inserted before the words "human rights";

(d) In the tenth preambular paragraph, the words "and cultural" were deleted before the words "and gender stereotypes";

(e) At the end of the twelfth preambular paragraph, the phrase "1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010 and other relevant United Nations resolutions" was replaced by "and its subsequent follow-up resolutions, as well as other relevant United Nations resolutions";

(f) At the end of operative paragraph 6, the words "in accordance with their existing mandates" were replaced by the words "within their existing mandates," and the word "national" was inserted before the word "efforts";

(g) In operative paragraph 10, the words "democratic political activities" were replaced by the words "political and other leadership activities";

(h) Operative paragraph 11, which read:

> "11. *Invites* States to exchange experience and best practices throughout the United Nations system on women's political participation, including on the participation of women in times of political transition",

was replaced by:

> "11. *Invites* States to exchange experience and best practices on women's political participation in all phases of the political process, including in times of political change and reform";

(i) In operative paragraph 12, the words "inter alia," were added after the word "focus".

16. Also at the 46th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Liberia and Maldives (see A/C.3/66/SR.46).

17. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.20/Rev.1, as orally revised (see para. 26, draft resolution III).

18. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Cuba, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Pakistan, Nicaragua and the Russian Federation (see A/C.3/66/SR.46).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.21

19. At the 28th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (A/C.3/66/L.21). Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, the Niger, the Philippines, Rwanda, San Marino, South Africa, Suriname, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

20. At its 41st meeting, on 3 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.21 (see para. 26, resolution IV).

21. After the adoption of the resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.3/66/SR.41).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.59

22. At its 42nd meeting, on 8 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/66/L.59), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations.

23. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chair, Ms. Donette Critchlow (Guyana), made a statement (see A/C.3/66/SR.42).

24. Also at its 42nd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.59 (see para. 26, resolution V).

F. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

25. At its 48th meeting, on 21 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of a report (A/66/215) considered in connection with the advancement of women (see para. 27).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

26. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[1]

Reaffirming the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights,[2] the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] the Fourth World Conference on Women[4] and the World Summit for Social Development[5] and their reviews,

Welcoming the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and expressing hope that it will robustly support national efforts to increase women's access to economic opportunities, especially for those who are most excluded, including women migrant workers, and to end violence against women migrant workers, in the light of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2011-2013,[6] which has among its six goals, increasing women's access to economic opportunities, and preventing violence against women and girls and expanding access to survivor services, and the policy and programmatic work of UN-Women on empowering women migrant workers,

Welcoming also the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women during its fifty-fifth session,[7] and taking note of, in particular, the commitment, as appropriate, to implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers, to ensure that all women, including care workers, are legally protected against violence and exploitation, to provide safe and legal channels that recognize women migrant workers' skills and education and fair labour conditions, and to facilitate their productive employment and decent work and integration into the labour force,

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[1] See resolution 48/104.

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[6] UNW/2011/9.

[7] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

Recalling the discussions during the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 14 and 15 September 2006, which recognized, inter alia, the need for special protection for migrant women, and noting that another high-level dialogue on the same theme will be held in 2013,

Welcoming the adoption of Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201 on decent work for domestic workers by the International Labour Conference on 16 June 2011, at its 100th session, noting the importance of the early entry into force of Convention No. 189 and encouraging States to consider ratifying it, encouraging States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[8] to note and consider general recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in November 2008,[9] and encouraging States parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[10] to take note of and consider general comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers, adopted by the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in December 2010,[11] acknowledging that they are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing the increasing participation of women in international migration, driven in large part by socio-economic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

Stressing the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination, through targeted measures, and in this regard recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

Recognizing that women migrant workers are important contributors to social and economic development, through the economic and social impacts, as a result of their work, on countries of origin and destination, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic workers,

Recognizing also the particular vulnerability of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate, and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment, and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to and reintegration in their countries of origin,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence, domestic and family violence, racist and xenophobic acts, abusive labour practices, exploitative conditions of work, and

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/64/38), annex I.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

[11] CMW/C/GC/1.

contemporary forms of slavery, including all forms of forced labour, and trafficking in persons,

Recognizing that the intersection of, inter alia, gender, age, class and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers, and that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination,

Reaffirming the commitment to protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, indigenous women who migrate for work, and in this regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[12] to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as appropriate,

Noting that the priority theme of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges,[13] and in this regard recognizing the role and contribution of rural women migrant workers towards poverty eradication and development in their communities,

Concerned that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent and address abuse and exploitation, and observing with concern that many women migrant workers take on jobs for which they may be overqualified and in which, at the same time, they may be more vulnerable because of poor pay and inadequate social protection,

Emphasizing the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, and gender-sensitive indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of targeted policies and concrete strategies to specifically address violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination,

Realizing that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be facilitated through, inter alia, the Internet and that those women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

Recognizing the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Encouraged by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction and to promote access to justice, such as the establishment of gender-sensitive protection mechanisms for migrant workers, facilitating their access to mechanisms for reporting complaints or providing assistance during legal proceedings,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions, and the relevant

[12] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[13] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15.

special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[14]

2. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[10] the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[15] and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[16] the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[17] and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[18] as well as all other human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers, and also encourages Member States to implement the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;[19]

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, entitled "Political economy of women's human rights", submitted to the Council at its eleventh session,[20] in particular her elaboration in that report of the current issues of the exploitation and violence that women migrants face in the context of the current global economic trends and crises;

4. *Encourages* all United Nations special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to improve the collection of information on and analysis of those areas within their mandate relating to the current challenges facing women migrant workers, and also encourages Governments to cooperate with the special rapporteurs in this regard;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective in legislation, policies and programmes on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments, for the prevention of and protection of migrant women against violence and discrimination, exploitation and abuse, and to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce discrimination, and, where necessary, to conduct impact assessment studies of such legislation, policies and programmes in order to identify the impact of measures taken and the results achieved in regard to women migrant workers;

6. *Also calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status,

[14] A/66/212.
[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[16] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.
[17] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.
[18] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.
[19] Resolution 64/293, annex.
[20] A/HRC/11/6.

including in policies that regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, and to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration, inter alia in order to deter illegal migration, to consider incorporating a gender perspective into immigration laws in order to prevent discrimination and violence against women, including in independent, circular and temporary migration, and to consider permitting, in accordance with national legislation, women migrant workers who are victims of violence to apply for residency permits independently of abusive employers or spouses;

7. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as well as to strengthen efforts to reduce the vulnerability of women migrant workers, by facilitating effective access to justice and effective action in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, prevention, capacity-building, victim protection and support, by exchanging information and good practices in combating violence and discrimination against women migrant workers and by fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin;

8. *Also urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child, by adopting or strengthening measures to promote and protect the human rights of migrant girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their immigration status, so as to prevent labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, including in domestic work;

9. *Further urges* Governments to strongly encourage all stakeholders, especially the private sector, including employment agencies involved in recruiting women migrant workers, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries promote adherence to and respect for the human rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

10. *Encourages* all States to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, including, where appropriate, by reducing transaction costs and implementing woman-friendly remittance transfer, savings, and investment schemes, including diaspora investment schemes, in conformity with applicable national legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

11. *Calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status, to have access to emergency health care, and in this regard to ensure that women migrant workers are not discriminated against on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth and, in accordance with national legislation, to address the vulnerabilities to HIV experienced by migrant

populations, and support their access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

12. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women migrant domestic workers, and to include therein and improve where necessary, relevant monitoring and inspection measures in line with applicable International Labour Organization conventions and other instruments, to ensure compliance with international obligations, and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to gender-sensitive, transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against employers, while stressing that such instruments should not punish women migrant workers, and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations of their rights;

13. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence, irrespective of their immigration status, in line with domestic legislation, with the full range of emergency assistance and protection and, to the extent possible, gender-sensitive services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, in accordance with relevant international human rights instruments and applicable conventions;

14. *Also calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions in order to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and gender-sensitive redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively and that allow their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, when possible, and to protect migrant women workers who are victims of violence from revictimization, including by authorities;

15. *Urges* all States to adopt effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

16. *Encourages* Governments to formulate and implement training programmes for their law enforcers, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, prosecutors and service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public-sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions;

17. *Also encourages* Governments to promote coherence between migration, labour and anti-trafficking policies and programmes concerning women migrant workers, based on a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective, to ensure that the human rights of women migrant workers are protected throughout the migration process, and to enhance efforts to prevent violence against women migrant workers, prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims and their families;

18. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,[21] to ensure that, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, the competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality, and in this regard to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality;

19. *Invites* the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with Governments, within existing resources, towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that are, inter alia, gender-sensitive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment and to continue to support national efforts to address violence against women migrant workers in a coordinated way that ensures effective implementation, enhances their impact and strengthens positive outcomes for women migrant workers;

20. *Encourages* Governments to formulate national policies concerning women migrant workers that are based on up-to-date, relevant sex-disaggregated data and analysis in close consultation with women migrant workers and relevant stakeholders throughout the policy process, and also encourages Governments to ensure that such process is adequately resourced and that the resulting policies have measurable targets and indicators, timetables, and monitoring and accountability measures, in particular for employment agencies, employers and public officials, and provide for impact assessments and ensure multi-sector coordination within and between countries of origin, transit and destination through appropriate mechanisms;

21. *Also encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and UN-Women, to develop and enhance appropriate sex-disaggregated national data-collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies that will generate comparable data, and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and, wherever possible, violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process, and to:

(a) Further study the costs of violence against women, including migrant workers, to the women themselves, their families and their communities;

(b) Analyse the opportunities available to women migrant workers and their impact on development;

(c) Support the improvement of macrodata on remittances, for appropriate policy formulation and implementation;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive, analytical and thematic report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, specifically with regard to access to justice for women

[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

migrant workers, highlighting the impact of legislation, policies and programmes on women migrant workers, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the reports of special rapporteurs that refer to the situation of women migrant workers and other relevant sources, such as the International Organization for Migration, including non-governmental organizations.

Draft resolution II
Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/129 of 19 December 2001, 58/146 of 22 December 2003, 60/138 of 16 December 2005, 62/136 of 18 December 2007 and 64/140 of 18 December 2009,

Welcoming the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to consider empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges as its priority theme at its fifty-sixth session, in 2012,

Recognizing that rural women are critical agents in poverty reduction, that they are crucial to the achievement of food and nutritional security in poor and vulnerable households and to environmental sustainability and that, in other ways, they are also critical to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals, and concerned that rural women continue to be economically and socially disadvantaged because of their limited access to economic resources and opportunities, their limited or lack of access to land, water and other resources, their limited or lack of access to credit, extension services and agricultural inputs, their exclusion from planning and decision-making and their disproportionate burden of unpaid care work,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the relevant United Nations conferences and summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women, including indigenous women, in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of rural women and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and their full participation in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, based on internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Pursuing the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, and support for women's organizations, labour unions or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights;

(c) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women, including indigenous women and women with disabilities, through their

[1] A/66/181.

organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of gender equality and rural development programmes and strategies;

(d) Ensuring that perspectives of rural women are taken into account and that they participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against rural women in this regard;

(e) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies and programmes, including budget policies, paying increased attention to the needs of rural women so as to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

(f) Strengthening measures, including resource generation, to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health by addressing the specific health needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of health for women in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services, including in such areas of sexual and reproductive health as prenatal and post-natal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning information and increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS;

(g) Promoting sustainable infrastructure, access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation and safe cooking and heating practices, to improve the health of rural women and children;

(h) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women, including needs relating to their food and nutritional security and that of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them as well as decent conditions for work and access to local, regional and global markets through improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, science and technology, local services, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes, and health and social support measures, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care, including psychosocial aspects, and support services;

(i) Designing and implementing national policies that promote and protect the enjoyment by rural women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations or abuses of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence;

(j) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection/social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources, and empowerment of older women through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on support to older women, including

indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are more vulnerable;

(k) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, inter alia, through their participation in decision-making processes;

(l) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures, and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas, in particular female heads of households, for their economic empowerment;

(m) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

(n) Integrating increased employment opportunities for rural women into all international and national development strategies and poverty eradication strategies, including by, inter alia, expanding non-agricultural employment opportunities, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

(o) Investing in infrastructure and in time- and labour-saving technologies, especially in rural areas, benefiting women and girls by reducing their burden of domestic activities, affording the opportunity for girls to attend school and women to engage in self-employment or participate in the labour market;

(p) Taking steps towards ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are recognized, and supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment of rural women, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

(q) Promoting programmes and services to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share, equally with women, household, childcare and other care responsibilities;

(r) Developing strategies to decrease women's vulnerability to environmental factors while promoting rural women's role in protecting the environment;

(s) Considering the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of women in indigenous and local communities relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and indigenous technologies;

(t) Addressing the lack of timely, reliable and sex-disaggregated data, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

(u) Strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices to collect, analyse and disseminate comparable sex-disaggregated data, including on time use, and gender statistics in rural areas to serve as a basis for gender-responsive policy design and strategy development in rural areas;

(v) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the equal right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information, and to ensure equal access to justice and legal support;

(w) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system that considers the specific needs of rural women in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and discriminatory tendencies affecting them, including through community-based dialogue involving women and men, and girls and boys;

(x) Promoting education, training and relevant information programmes for rural and farming women through the use of affordable and appropriate technologies and the mass media;

(y) Developing the capacity of personnel working in the areas of national development strategies, rural development, agricultural development, poverty eradication and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to identify and address the challenges and constraints facing rural women, including through training programmes and the development and dissemination of methodologies and tools, while acknowledging technical assistance of relevant United Nations agencies;

3. *Strongly encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to take measures to identify and address any negative impact of the current global crises on women in rural areas, including on legislation, policies and programmes that strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies;

5. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full participation in the area of information and communication technology, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global, regional and national information and communications technology strategies, taking appropriate educational measures to eliminate gender stereotypes regarding women in the field of technology;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to consider the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning their reports to the Committee when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

7. *Invites* Governments to promote the economic empowerment of rural women, to adopt gender-responsive rural development strategies, including budget framework and relevant assessment measures, and to ensure that the needs and priorities of rural women and girls are systematically addressed, and that they can effectively contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and food and nutritional security;

8. *Encourages* Governments and international organizations to integrate the perspective of women in rural areas, including indigenous women, into the preparations for and outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, with a view to accelerating progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in rural areas;

9. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III
Women and political participation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, and guided by the purposes and principles of human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] which states that everyone has the right to take part in the Government of his or her country directly, or through freely chosen representatives, and the right of equal access to public service,

Guided by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] which affirms human rights and fundamental freedoms and equality for women around the world, and which states, inter alia, that States parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[3] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

Recognizing the central role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in leading and coordinating action to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women within the United Nations system, as well as in supporting all countries' efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Recognizing also the important contributions that women have made towards the achievement of representative, transparent and accountable Governments in many countries,

Stressing the critical importance of women's political participation in all contexts, including in times of peace and of conflict and at all stages of political transition, concerned that many obstacles still prevent women from participating in political life on equal terms with men, and noting in that regard that situations of political transition may provide a unique opportunity to address such obstacles,

Recognizing the essential contributions that women around the world continue to make to the achievement and maintenance of international peace and security and to the full realization of all human rights, to the promotion of sustainable development and economic growth, and to the eradication of poverty, hunger and disease,

Reaffirming that the active participation of women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of equality, sustainable development, peace and democracy,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

Highly concerned that women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere, often as a result of discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes and gender stereotypes, low levels of education, lack of access to health care and the disproportionate effect of poverty on women,

Recognizing the importance of empowering all women through education and training in government, public policy, economics, civics, information technology and science to ensure that they develop the knowledge and skills needed to make full contributions to society and the political process,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding and the need for Member States and the United Nations system to increase the role of women in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and the rebuilding of post-conflict societies, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and its subsequent follow-up resolutions, as well as other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Noting with appreciation the establishment by the Human Rights Council of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 58/142 of 22 December 2003 on women and political participation, and calls upon all States to implement it fully;

2. *Calls upon* all States to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that, in a discriminatory manner, prevent or restrict women's participation in the political process;

3. *Also calls upon* all States to enhance the political participation of women, accelerate the achievement of equality between men and women and, in all situations, including in situations of political transition, to promote and protect the human rights of women with respect to:

(a) Engaging in political activities;

(b) Taking part in the conduct of public affairs;

(c) Associating freely;

(d) Assembling peacefully;

(e) Expressing their opinions and seeking, receiving and imparting information and ideas freely;

(f) Voting in elections and public referendums and being eligible for election to publicly elected bodies on equal terms with men;

(g) Participating in the formulation of Government policy and the implementation thereof, holding public office and performing public functions at all levels of Government;

4. *Calls upon* States in situations of political transition to take effective steps to ensure the participation of women on equal terms with men in all phases of political reform, from decisions on whether to call for reforms in existing institutions to decisions regarding transitional Governments, to the formulation of Government policy, to the means of electing new democratic Governments;

5. *Urges* all States to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] urges States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so, and urges States parties to the Convention to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol thereto;

6. *Also urges* all States to take, inter alia, the following actions to ensure women's equal participation, and encourages the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their existing mandates, to enhance their assistance to States in their national efforts to:

(a) Review the differential impact of their electoral systems on the political participation of women and their representation in elected bodies and to adjust or reform those systems where appropriate;

(b) Take all appropriate measures to eliminate prejudices that are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women and that constitute a barrier to women's access to and participation in the political sphere, and to adopt inclusive approaches to their political participation;

(c) Strongly encourage political parties to remove all barriers that directly or indirectly discriminate against the participation of women, to develop their capacity to analyse issues from a gender perspective, and to adopt policies, as appropriate, to promote the ability of women to participate fully at all levels of decision-making within those political parties;

(d) Promote awareness and recognition of the importance of women's participation in the political process at the community, local, national and international levels;

(e) Develop mechanisms and training to encourage women to participate in the electoral process, political activities and other leadership activities, and empower women to assume public responsibilities by developing and providing appropriate tools and skills, in consultation with women;

(f) Implement appropriate measures within governmental bodies and public sector institutions to eliminate direct or indirect barriers to and enhance women's participation in all levels of political decision-making;

(g) Accelerate the implementation of strategies, as appropriate, that promote gender balance in political decision-making, and take all appropriate measures to encourage political parties to ensure that women have a fair and equal opportunity to compete for all elective public positions;

(h) Improve and broaden women's access to information and communication technology, including e-government tools, in order to enable political participation and to promote engagement in broader democratic processes, while also improving the responsiveness of these technologies to women's needs, including those of marginalized women;

(i) Investigate allegations of violence, assault or harassment of women elected officials and candidates to political office, create an environment of zero tolerance for such offences and, to ensure accountability, take all appropriate steps to prosecute those responsible;

(j) Encourage greater involvement of women who may be marginalized, including indigenous women, women with disabilities, women from rural areas and women of any ethnic, cultural or religious minority, in decision-making at all levels, and address and counter the barriers faced by marginalized women in accessing and participating in politics and decision-making at all levels;

(k) Encourage the promotion of programmes geared towards the sensitization and orientation of youth and children, in particular young women and girls, on the importance of the political process and women's participation in politics;

(l) Ensure that measures to reconcile family and professional life apply equally to women and men, bearing in mind that equitable sharing of family responsibilities between women and men and reduction of the double burden of paid and unpaid work can help to create an enabling environment for women's political participation;

(m) Promote the granting of appropriate maternity and paternity leave in order to facilitate women's political participation;

(n) Take proactive measures to address factors preventing or hindering women from participating in politics, such as violence, poverty, lack of access to quality education and health care, and gender stereotypes;

(o) Monitor and evaluate progress in the representation of women in decision-making positions;

7. *Encourages* States to ensure an expanded role for women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and in mediation and peacebuilding efforts, as called for in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

8. *Also encourages* States to appoint women to posts within all levels of their Governments, including, where applicable, bodies responsible for designing constitutional, electoral, political or institutional reforms;

9. *Further encourages* States to commit themselves to establishing the goal of gender balance in governmental bodies and committees, as well as in public administrative entities, and in the judiciary, including, inter alia and as appropriate, setting specific targets and implementing measures to substantially increase the number of women with a view to achieving equal representation of women and men, if necessary through positive action, in all governmental and public administration positions;

10. *Encourages* States and relevant civil society organizations to support programmes that facilitate women's participation in political and other leadership activities, including peer support and capacity development for new office holders, and to promote public/private civil society partnerships for women's empowerment;

11. *Invites* States to exchange experience and best practices on women's political participation in all phases of the political process, including in times of political change and reform;

12. *Notes with interest* the focus, inter alia, on the political participation of women, including the issues raised in the present resolution, in the work of the Human Rights Council Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice;

13. *Encourages* States to disseminate the present resolution among all relevant institutions, in particular national, regional and local authorities, as well as among political parties;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and encourages Governments to provide precise data on the political participation of women at all levels, including, where appropriate, information on the political participation of women in times of political transition.

Draft resolution IV
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/138 of 18 December 2009,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[1]

2. *Also welcomes* the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth[2] and forty-sixth to forty-eighth[3] sessions;

3. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions under the item on the advancement of women;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

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[1] A/66/99.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/65/38).

[3] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/66/38).

Draft resolution V
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 65/191 of 21 December 2010, and also recalling the section of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women",

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[2] are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[3] the 2005 World Summit,[4] the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[5] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and taking note with appreciation of all its agreed conclusions, including the latest, on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session,[6]

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] See resolution 65/1.

[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

Welcoming also the full operationalization of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on 1 January 2011,

Recognizing that the participation and contribution of civil society, in particular women's groups and other non-governmental organizations, are important to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Reaffirming also the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[7]

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and stereotypic roles of men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[8] and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS adopted at the High-level Meeting on AIDS, held on 10 June 2011,[9] in which, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women were recognized as fundamental for reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system,[10]

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010 on women and peace and security and resolution 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

[7] Resolution 63/239, annex.
[8] Resolution S-26/2, annex.
[9] Resolution 65/277, annex.
[10] A/65/334.

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly; [11]

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] as well as the declaration adopted on the occasion of the fifteen-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[12] and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[13] are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto[14] and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

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[11] A/66/211.

[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[14] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

6. *Welcomes* the progress made in the effective functioning of UN-Women in regard to its governance structure, as well as administration, budgeting and human resources;

7. *Reaffirms* the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

8. *Calls upon* UN-Women to continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work and, in that regard, to place a strong and more systematic focus on support for gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment of UN-Women to support Member States in their efforts to develop and strengthen norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment as well as to integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policy and normative frameworks;

10. *Urges* Member States to increase funding for the budget of UN-Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions, recognizing the importance of adequate funding in enabling UN-Women to implement its strategic plan promptly and effectively, and recognizing also that the mobilization of financial resources for achieving its goals still remains a challenge;

11. *Encourages* all actors, inter alia, Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and, as applicable, to carry out the recommendations of the Commission, and welcomes in this regard the Commission's continued sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation at the national and international levels, and the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes;

12. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

13. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys in taking an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any violence against

women, and in this regard encourages Member States to continue to support the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the UN-Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO to violence against women";

14. *Reiterates its call* to the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as in all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and in their follow-up processes, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 and the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, in 2013;

15. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system systematically to incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work within their mandates, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the commitment of UN-Women to establish concrete results-based reporting mechanisms, as well as to ensure coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work;

16. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

17. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to encourage women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality and the empowerment of women to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

18. *Calls upon* intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations to systematically request the inclusion of a gender perspective in reports of the Secretary-General and other inputs to intergovernmental processes;

19. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis and the provision of sex- and age-disaggregated data and, where available, quantitative data, in particular through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the empowerment of women, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to convey the importance of reflecting a gender perspective to all stakeholders who provide inputs to his reports;

20. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well

as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

21. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

23. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, with recommendations for accelerating progress, and up-to-date statistics, including the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, and information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

24. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional and national levels, including by improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes and by achieving gender balance;

25. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled "Advancement of women", as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation.

27. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

The General Assembly decides to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences[1] submitted under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

[1] A/66/215.

United Nations A/66/455/Corr.1

General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 28

Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Corrigendum

Paragraph 14

For the existing text *substitute*

14. At its 46th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Women and political participation" (A/C.3/66/L.20/Rev.1), submitted by Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Zambia.

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United Nations A/66/456

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Agenda item 62

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Kadra Ahmed **Hassan** (Djibouti)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 38th, 40th, 41st, 47th and 48th meetings, on 1, 2, 3 and 21 November 2011. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/66/SR.38, 40, 41, 47 and 48).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/66/12);

(b) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/66/12/Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/66/321).

4. At the 38th meeting, on 1 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made an introductory statement and engaged in a dialogue with the representatives of Afghanistan, the European Union, Serbia, Kenya, Algeria, the United States of America and Morocco (see A/C.3/66/SR.38).

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II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.63

5. At the 41st meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Denmark, on behalf of Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United Republic of Tanzania, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/66/L.63). Subsequently, Albania, Argentina, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Niger, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 42nd meeting, on 8 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.63 (see para. 13, draft resolution I).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Jordan, the United States, the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq (see A/C.3/66/SR.42).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.67

8. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Azerbaijan, on behalf of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Denmark, Egypt and Rwanda, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/66/L.67). Subsequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, India, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Togo and Turkmenistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At its 43rd meeting, on 10 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.67 (see para. 13, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.69/Rev.1

10. At the 47th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of Sierra Leone, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States and Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Haiti, Honduras, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa" (A/C.3/66/69/Rev.1).

Subsequently, Albania, Austria, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Malta, Mexico, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

11. At the same meeting, the representative of Sierra Leone orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, the word "*Recalling*" was replaced with the word "*Welcoming*";

(b) Operative paragraph 11, which read:

> "11. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of return and reintegration",

was replaced with the following:

> "11. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary return, reintegration and resettlement";

(c) In operative paragraph 21, the words "to intensify their support" were replaced with the words "to continue and, where appropriate, intensify their support".

12. At its 48th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.69/Rev.1, as orally revised (see para. 13, draft resolution III).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

13. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-second session[2] and the decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, commending the staff and implementing partners of the Office for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and underlining its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-second session;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[3] and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[4] and welcomes in this context the convening and facilitation by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of an intergovernmental commemorative event at the ministerial level as a recognition by States of the importance of respecting and upholding the values and principles enshrined in these two instruments;

3. *Also welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities;

4. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[3] and the 1967 Protocol thereto[5] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty-eight States are now parties to one instrument or to both, encourages States not

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/66/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/66/12/Add.1).
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[4] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.
[5] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

parties to consider acceding to those instruments, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

5. *Notes* that sixty-eight States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[6] and that forty States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[4] encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the High Commissioner in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

6. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes, in this context, the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

7. *Also re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

8. *Further re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

9. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to pursue its efforts to strengthen its capacity to respond adequately to emergencies and thereby ensure a more predictable response to inter-agency commitments in case of emergency;

10. *Takes note* of the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

11. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and in full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the continued development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels, and recalls the role of the Office as the cluster lead for protection, camp coordination and management, and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

12. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, among other relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination,

[6] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution 65/133 of 15 December 2010 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

13. *Further encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to engage in and implement in full the objectives of the Delivering as One initiative;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made in the implementation of the process of structural and management change, including the global needs assessment initiative, undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner, and encourages the Office to consolidate the various aspects of the reform process, including the results-based management and accountability framework and strategy, and to focus on continuous improvement in order to enable a more efficient response to the needs of beneficiaries and to ensure the effective and transparent use of its resources;

15. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons as well as acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, and calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;

16. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing number of attacks against humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need;

17. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

18. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon all States concerned to ensure respect for the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

19. *Emphasizes* that international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of, inter alia, the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

20. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and in ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and State policies, also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender

inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women and children in particular, welcomes, in this context, the series of dialogues with women and girls initiated by the Office, in this anniversary year, as an important move towards increasing understanding and improving the protection of women and girls, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on this issue;

21. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

22. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

23. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee problems and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements in order to avert new flows of refugees;

24. *Recalls* the important role of effective partnerships and coordination in meeting the needs of refugees and in finding durable solutions to their situations, welcomes the efforts under way, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, which includes an approach to sustainable and timely return that encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to support, inter alia, through the allocation of funds, the implementation of such a framework to facilitate an effective transition from relief to development;

25. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of return and reintegration;

26. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts that an increasing number of States are making to create opportunities for resettlement as a durable solution, recognizes the need to increase the number of resettlement places, invites interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[7] where appropriate and feasible, and, in this context, commends the efforts in launching a global

[7] Available from www.unhcr.org.

resettlement solidarity initiative in April 2011 by the Office and by those States that have responded generously in this respect;

27. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

28. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows, in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

29. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

30. *Expresses concern* about the challenges associated with climate change and environmental degradation to the protection activities of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provides to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in the least developed countries, and urges the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations;

31. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by host countries, whose generosity is appreciated, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, calls upon the Office to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those donor States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the condition of refugees who remain vulnerable members of society;

32. *Expresses deep concern* about the existing and potential challenges posed by the world financial and economic crisis to the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner;

33. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to further explore ways and means to broaden its donor base, so as to achieve greater burden-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

34. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute[8] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolutions 58/153 of 22 December 2003, 58/270 of 23 December 2003, 59/170 of 20 December 2004, 60/129 of 16 December 2005, 61/137 of 19 December 2006, 62/124 of 18 December 2007, 63/148 of 18 December 2008, 64/127 of 18 December 2009 and 65/194 of 21 December 2010 concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

35. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his activities to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

[8] Resolution 428 (V), annex.

Draft resolution II
Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 2011/263 of 28 July 2011 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the request regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 1 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[1] and the letter dated 11 July 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council,[2]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from eighty-five States to eighty-seven States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its resumed organizational session for 2012.

[1] E/2011/75.
[2] E/2011/130.

Draft resolution III
Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[3] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[4] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

Welcoming the adoption, and the ongoing ratification process, of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa,[5] which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of women and children among refugees and other persons of concern, including exposure to discrimination and sexual and physical abuse, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence,

Gravely concerned about the rising number of refugees in various parts of the continent,

Acknowledging the efforts of Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other stakeholders in improving the situation of refugees, and expressing grave concern about the deteriorating living conditions in many refugee camps in Africa,

Recognizing that refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV and AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases,

Recalling the regional dialogues that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees undertook on protection challenges and solutions with refugee women and girls in Uganda and Zambia in March and April 2011, respectively,

Welcoming the ministerial mini-summit on the humanitarian response to the Horn of Africa crisis, held in New York on 24 September 2011, the African Union pledging conference held in Addis Ababa on 25 August 2011, and the Organization for Islamic Cooperation pledging meeting on Somalia held in Istanbul on 17 August 2011, as well as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and East African Community joint summit on the Horn of Africa crisis, held in Nairobi on 8 and 9 September 2011, dedicated to raising awareness and mobilizing resources to

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.
[3] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.
[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[5] Available from www.africa-union.org.

address the crisis in the Horn of Africa, and, in this context, expressing appreciation for the valuable contributions of countries and international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as other relevant partners,

Noting with appreciation the Joint Declaration adopted by the summit on the Horn of Africa crisis, "Ending Drought Emergencies — a Commitment to Sustainable Solutions", which, inter alia, expressed concern about the mass exodus of refugees into neighbouring countries, as well as the increased number of internally displaced persons due to the current humanitarian crises of drought and famine in the Horn of Africa,

Noting also with appreciation the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in 2006,[6] and its instruments, in particular two of the protocols to the Pact, which are relevant to the protection of displaced persons, namely, the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons,

Acknowledging with appreciation the generosity, hospitality and spirit of solidarity of African countries that continue to host the influx of refugees due to recent humanitarian crises and protracted refugee situations and, in this regard, expressing particular appreciation for the commitment and efforts of neighbouring countries in the recent humanitarian crises in Côte d'Ivoire, Libya and the Horn of Africa, and further acknowledging with appreciation the coordination of humanitarian assistance by the United Nations as well as the continuing efforts of donors, the United Nations system, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, regional organizations, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and other partners, with regard to, inter alia, voluntary return, reintegration and resettlement, in addressing the plight of refugees during the emergency,

Recognizing that host States have the primary responsibility for the protection of and assistance to refugees on their territory, and the need to redouble efforts to develop and implement comprehensive durable solution strategies, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, and burden- and responsibility-sharing,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem in appropriate cooperation with the international community,

Welcoming the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[3] and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[7] and welcoming in this context the convening, by the Office of the High Commissioner, of an intergovernmental event at the ministerial level on 7 and 8 December 2011 to commemorate these anniversaries,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[8] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[9]

[6] Available from www.icglr.org.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 989, No. 14458.

[8] A/66/321.

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/66/12).

2. *Calls upon* African Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa[5] to consider doing so as early as possible in order to ensure its early entry into force and implementation;

3. *Notes* the need for African Member States to address resolutely the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall flows of refugees;

4. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all of the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

5. *Welcomes* decisions EX.CL/Dec.629 (XVIII) and EX.CL/Dec.653 (XIX) on the humanitarian situation in Africa, insofar as they relate to refugees, returnees and displaced persons, adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its eighteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa from 24 to 28 January 2011, and its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Malabo from 23 to 28 June 2011, respectively;[10]

6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum, including by providing support to vulnerable local host communities, and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the initiatives taken by the African Union, the Subcommittee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons of its Permanent Representatives Committee, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in particular the role of its Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

8. *Recalls* the adoption by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of the conclusions on refugees with disabilities and other persons with disabilities protected and assisted by the Office of the High Commissioner, at its sixty-first session, held from 4 to 8 October 2010,[11] and endorses its report on the work of its sixty-second session, held from 3 to 7 October 2011;[12]

9. *Acknowledges* the important contribution of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in identifying, through a participatory approach, the protection risks faced by the different members of the refugee communities, in particular the

[10] See African Union, documents EX.CL/Dec.600-643 (XVIII) and EX.CL/Dec.644-667 (XIX). Available from www.africa-union.org.

[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/65/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. A.

[12] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/66/12/Add.1).

non-discriminatory treatment and protection of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly;

10. *Affirms* that children, because of their age, social status and physical and mental development, are often more vulnerable than adults in situations of forced displacement, recognizes that forced displacement, return to post-conflict situations, integration in new societies, protracted situations of displacement and statelessness can increase child protection risks, taking into account the particular vulnerability of refugee children to forcible exposure to the risks of physical and psychological injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, and acknowledges that wider environmental factors and individual risk factors, particularly when combined, may generate different protection needs;

11. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary return, reintegration and resettlement;

12. *Also recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

13. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum-seekers adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fifty-second session,[13] notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum-seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so, reiterates in this context the central role that early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

14. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight, facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons and supporting vulnerable local host communities;

15. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their communities so as to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern in regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

[13] Ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/56/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. B.

16. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

17. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

18. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers, notes with interest that the High Commissioner has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue those efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

19. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all measures necessary to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

20. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the protection system for refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons;

21. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other entities concerned to continue and, where appropriate, intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing

capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities, in particular those Governments that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers;

22. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

23. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, and urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations;

24. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

25. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[14] where appropriate and feasible; and, in this context, commends recent efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner in launching a Global Resettlement Solidarity Initiative in April 2011 and by States that have responded generously in this respect;

26. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum as well as internally displaced persons, where appropriate;

27. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

28. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical

[14] Available from www.unhcr.org.

approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including the improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and the realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context;

29. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, notes the efforts of African States in strengthening the regional mechanisms for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[15] takes note of the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

30. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".

[15] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

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Report of the Human Rights Council

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Kadra Ahmed **Hassan** (Djibouti)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Report of the Human Rights Council" and to allocate it to both the plenary and the Third Committee, on the understanding that the Third Committee would consider and act on all recommendations of the Human Rights Council to the Assembly, including those that deal with the development of international law in the field of human rights.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 39th, 43rd, 44th and 45th meetings, on 2, 10, 15 and 17 November 2011. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/66/SR.39, 43, 44 and 45).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Human Rights Council on its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions and its fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth special sessions (A/66/53);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims (A/66/335).

4. At the 39th meeting, on 2 November, the President of the Human Rights Council made a statement and engaged in a dialogue with the representatives of the United States of America, the European Union, Australia, Japan, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Mexico, China, the Russian Federation, Morocco, the Syrian Arab

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Republic, Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Costa Rica and Israel and the observer for Palestine (see A/C.3/66/SR.39).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.64/Rev.1

5. At the 43rd meeting, on 10 November, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Human Rights Council" (A/C.3/66/L.64/Rev.1).

6. At the 44th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania orally revised the text by deleting, the words "some of" before the words "its recommendations" in the operative paragraph.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Belarus requested a recorded vote on the draft resolution. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and Poland (on behalf of the European Union) (see A/C.3/66/SR.44).

8. Also at its 44th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.64/Rev.1, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 95 to 4, with 60 abstentions (see para. 20, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:[1]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Yemen.

Against:

Belarus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syrian Arab Republic.

[1] The delegations of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq subsequently indicated that they had intended to abstain.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

9. After the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Canada, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Chile, Israel, Pakistan, Cuba, Nicaragua, China, Switzerland (also on behalf of Norway), Costa Rica, Liechtenstein, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Colombia and Turkey (see A/C.3/66/SR.44).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.65

10. At the 44th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training" (A/C.3/66/L.65). Subsequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Estonia, France, Iceland, India, Latvia, Mali, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Republic of Tanzania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

11. At its 45th meeting, on 17 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.65 (see para. 20, draft resolution II).

12. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Canada (see A/C.3/66/SR.45).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.66

13. At the 43rd meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Slovakia, on behalf of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, Montenegro, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, the United States of America

and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure" (A/C.3/66/L.66).

14. At the same meeting, the representative of Slovakia orally revised the first preambular paragraph by replacing the words "*Welcoming* the adoption by the Human Rights Council" by the words "*Taking note with appreciation* of the adoption by the Human Rights Council".

15. At the 44th meeting, on 15 November, the Secretary read out a statement of programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

16. Subsequently, Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mali, Morocco and Poland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

17. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.66, as orally revised (see para. 20, draft resolution III).

18. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Maldives (see A/C.3/66/SR.44).

D. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

19. At its 45th meeting, on 17 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims (A/66/335) (see para. 21).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

20. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Report of the Human Rights Council

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 60/251 of 15 March 2006, by which it established the Human Rights Council, and 65/281 of 17 June 2011, by which it reviewed the Human Rights Council,

Recalling also its resolutions 62/219 of 22 December 2007, 63/160 of 18 December 2008, 64/143 of 18 December 2009 and 65/195 of 21 December 2010,

Having considered the recommendations contained in the report of the Human Rights Council,[1]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Human Rights Council, its addendum and its recommendations.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53) and ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* (A/66/53/Add.1).

Draft resolution III
United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the adoption by the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 16/1 of 23 March 2011,[1] of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training,

1. *Adopts* the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Invites* Governments, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts to disseminate the Declaration and to promote universal respect and understanding thereof, and requests the Secretary-General to include the text of the Declaration in the next edition of *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*.

Annex
United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations with regard to the promotion and encouragement of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming also that every individual and every organ of society shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming further that everyone has the right to education, and that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society and promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace, security and the promotion of development and human rights,

Reaffirming that States are duty-bound, as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[3] and in other human rights instruments, to ensure that education is aimed at strengthening respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Acknowledging the fundamental importance of human rights education and training in contributing to the promotion, protection and effective realization of all human rights,

Reaffirming the call of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993, on all States and institutions to include human rights, humanitarian law,

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. I.

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

[3] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

democracy and rule of law in the curricula of all learning institutions, and its statement that human rights education should include peace, democracy, development and social justice, as set forth in international and regional human rights instruments, in order to achieve common understanding and awareness with a view to strengthening universal commitment to human rights,[4]

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5] in which Heads of State and Government supported the promotion of human rights education and learning at all levels, including through the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and encouraged all States to develop initiatives in that regard,

Motivated by the desire to send a strong signal to the international community to strengthen all efforts in human rights education and training through a collective commitment by all stakeholders,

Declares:

Article 1

1. Everyone has the right to know, seek and receive information about all human rights and fundamental freedoms and should have access to human rights education and training.

2. Human rights education and training is essential for the promotion of universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the principles of the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights.

3. The effective enjoyment of all human rights, in particular the right to education and access to information, enables access to human rights education and training.

Article 2

1. Human rights education and training comprises all educational, training, information, awareness-raising and learning activities aimed at promoting universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and thus contributing, inter alia, to the prevention of human rights violations and abuses by providing persons with knowledge, skills and understanding and developing their attitudes and behaviours, to empower them to contribute to the building and promotion of a universal culture of human rights.

2. Human rights education and training encompasses:

(a) Education about human rights, which includes providing knowledge and understanding of human rights norms and principles, the values that underpin them and the mechanisms for their protection;

(b) Education through human rights, which includes learning and teaching in a way that respects the rights of both educators and learners;

(c) Education for human rights, which includes empowering persons to enjoy and exercise their rights and to respect and uphold the rights of others.

[4] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II, paras. 79 and 80.

[5] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

Article 3

1. Human rights education and training is a lifelong process that concerns all ages.

2. Human rights education and training concerns all parts of society, at all levels, including preschool, primary, secondary and higher education, taking into account academic freedom where applicable, and all forms of education, training and learning, whether in a public or private, formal, informal or non-formal setting. It includes, inter alia, vocational training, particularly the training of trainers, teachers and State officials, continuing education, popular education, and public information and awareness activities.

3. Human rights education and training should use languages and methods suited to target groups, taking into account their specific needs and conditions.

Article 4

Human rights education and training should be based on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant treaties and instruments, with a view to:

(a) Raising awareness, understanding and acceptance of universal human rights standards and principles, as well as guarantees at the international, regional and national levels for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) Developing a universal culture of human rights, in which everyone is aware of their own rights and responsibilities in respect of the rights of others, and promoting the development of the individual as a responsible member of a free, peaceful, pluralist and inclusive society;

(c) Pursuing the effective realization of all human rights and promoting tolerance, non-discrimination and equality;

(d) Ensuring equal opportunities for all through access to quality human rights education and training, without any discrimination;

(e) Contributing to the prevention of human rights violations and abuses and to the combating and eradication of all forms of discrimination, racism, stereotyping and incitement to hatred, and the harmful attitudes and prejudices that underlie them.

Article 5

1. Human rights education and training, whether provided by public or private actors, should be based on the principles of equality, particularly between girls and boys and between women and men, human dignity, inclusion and non-discrimination.

2. Human rights education and training should be accessible and available to all persons and should take into account the particular challenges and barriers faced by, and the needs and expectations of, persons in vulnerable and disadvantaged situations and groups, including persons with disabilities, in order to promote empowerment and human development and to contribute to the elimination of the causes of exclusion or marginalization, as well as enable everyone to exercise all their rights.

3. Human rights education and training should embrace and enrich, as well as draw inspiration from, the diversity of civilizations, religions, cultures and traditions of different countries, as it is reflected in the universality of human rights.

4. Human rights education and training should take into account different economic, social and cultural circumstances, while promoting local initiatives in order to encourage ownership of the common goal of the fulfilment of all human rights for all.

Article 6

1. Human rights education and training should capitalize on and make use of new information and communication technologies, as well as the media, to promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. The arts should be encouraged as a means of training and raising awareness in the field of human rights.

Article 7

1. States, and where applicable relevant governmental authorities, have the primary responsibility to promote and ensure human rights education and training, developed and implemented in a spirit of participation, inclusion and responsibility.

2. States should create a safe and enabling environment for the engagement of civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in human rights education and training, in which the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including of those engaged in the process, are fully protected.

3. States should take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, to ensure, to the maximum of their available resources, the progressive implementation of human rights education and training by appropriate means, including the adoption of legislative and administrative measures and policies.

4. States, and where applicable relevant governmental authorities, should ensure adequate training in human rights and, where appropriate, international humanitarian law and international criminal law, of State officials, civil servants, judges, law enforcement officials and military personnel, as well as promote adequate training in human rights for teachers, trainers and other educators and private personnel acting on behalf of the State.

Article 8

1. States should develop, or promote the development of, at the appropriate level, strategies and policies and, where appropriate, action plans and programmes to implement human rights education and training, such as through its integration into school and training curricula. In so doing, they should take into account the World Programme for Human Rights Education and specific national and local needs and priorities.

2. The conception, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to such strategies, action plans, policies and programmes should involve all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and national human rights institutions, by promoting, where appropriate, multi-stakeholder initiatives.

Article 9

States should promote the establishment, development and strengthening of effective and independent national human rights institutions, in compliance with the

principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles),[6] recognizing that national human rights institutions can play an important role, including, where necessary, a coordinating role, in promoting human rights education and training by, inter alia, raising awareness and mobilizing relevant public and private actors.

Article 10

1. Various actors within society, including, inter alia, educational institutions, the media, families, local communities, civil society institutions, including non-governmental organizations, human rights defenders and the private sector, have an important role to play in promoting and providing human rights education and training.

2. Civil society institutions, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders are encouraged to ensure adequate human rights education and training for their staff and personnel.

Article 11

The United Nations and international and regional organizations should provide human rights education and training for their civilian personnel and for military and police personnel serving under their mandates.

Article 12

1. International cooperation at all levels should support and reinforce national efforts, including, where applicable, at the local level, to implement human rights education and training.

2. Complementary and coordinated efforts at the international, regional, national and local levels can contribute to more effective implementation of human rights education and training.

3. Voluntary funding for projects and initiatives in the field of human rights education and training should be encouraged.

Article 13

1. International and regional human rights mechanisms should, within their respective mandates, take into account human rights education and training in their work.

2. States are encouraged to include, where appropriate, information on the measures that they have adopted in the field of human rights education and training in their reports to relevant human rights mechanisms.

Article 14

States should take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the present Declaration and make the necessary resources available in this regard.

[6] Resolution 48/134, annex.

Draft resolution III
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure

The General Assembly,

Taking note with appreciation of the adoption by the Human Rights Council, through its resolution 17/18 of 17 June 2011,[1] of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure,

1. *Adopts* the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Recommends* that the Optional Protocol be opened for signature at a signing ceremony to be held in 2012, and requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the necessary assistance.

Annex
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure

The States parties to the present Protocol,

Considering that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, the recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Noting that the States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention") recognize the rights set forth in it to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming also the status of the child as a subject of rights and as a human being with dignity and with evolving capacities,

Recognizing that children's special and dependent status may create real difficulties for them in pursuing remedies for violations of their rights,

Considering that the present Protocol will reinforce and complement national and regional mechanisms allowing children to submit complaints for violations of their rights,

Recognizing that the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration to be respected in pursuing remedies for violations of the rights of the

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. I.

child, and that such remedies should take into account the need for child-sensitive procedures at all levels,

Encouraging States parties to develop appropriate national mechanisms to enable a child whose rights have been violated to have access to effective remedies at the domestic level,

Recalling the important role that national human rights institutions and other relevant specialized institutions, mandated to promote and protect the rights of the child, can play in this regard,

Considering that, in order to reinforce and complement such national mechanisms and to further enhance the implementation of the Convention and, where applicable, the Optional Protocols thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict, it would be appropriate to enable the Committee on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") to carry out the functions provided for in the present Protocol,

Have agreed as follows:

Part I
General provisions

Article 1
Competence of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

1. A State party to the present Protocol recognizes the competence of the Committee as provided for by the present Protocol.

2. The Committee shall not exercise its competence regarding a State party to the present Protocol on matters concerning violations of rights set forth in an instrument to which that State is not a party.

3. No communication shall be received by the Committee if it concerns a State that is not a party to the present Protocol.

Article 2
General principles guiding the functions of the Committee

In fulfilling the functions conferred on it by the present Protocol, the Committee shall be guided by the principle of the best interests of the child. It shall also have regard for the rights and views of the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

Article 3
Rules of procedure

1. The Committee shall adopt rules of procedure to be followed when exercising the functions conferred on it by the present Protocol. In doing so, it shall have regard, in particular, for article 2 of the present Protocol in order to guarantee child-sensitive procedures.

2. The Committee shall include in its rules of procedure safeguards to prevent the manipulation of the child by those acting on his or her behalf and may decline to examine any communication that it considers not to be in the child's best interests.

Article 4
Protection measures

1. A State party shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that individuals under its jurisdiction are not subjected to any human rights violation, ill-treatment or intimidation as a consequence of communications or cooperation with the Committee pursuant to the present Protocol.

2. The identity of any individual or group of individuals concerned shall not be revealed publicly without their express consent.

Part II
Communications procedure

Article 5
Individual communications

1. Communications may be submitted by or on behalf of an individual or group of individuals, within the jurisdiction of a State party, claiming to be victims of a violation by that State party of any of the rights set forth in any of the following instruments to which that State is a party:

(a) The Convention;

(b) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

(c) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

2. Where a communication is submitted on behalf of an individual or group of individuals, this shall be with their consent unless the author can justify acting on their behalf without such consent.

Article 6
Interim measures

1. At any time after the receipt of a communication and before a determination on the merits has been reached, the Committee may transmit to the State party concerned for its urgent consideration a request that the State party take such interim measures as may be necessary in exceptional circumstances to avoid possible irreparable damage to the victim or victims of the alleged violations.

2. Where the Committee exercises its discretion under paragraph 1 of the present article, this does not imply a determination on admissibility or on the merits of the communication.

Article 7
Admissibility

The Committee shall consider a communication inadmissible when:

(a) The communication is anonymous;

(b) The communication is not in writing;

(c) The communication constitutes an abuse of the right of submission of such communications or is incompatible with the provisions of the Convention and/or the Optional Protocols thereto;

(d) The same matter has already been examined by the Committee or has been or is being examined under another procedure of international investigation or settlement;

(e) All available domestic remedies have not been exhausted. This shall not be the rule where the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged or unlikely to bring effective relief;

(f) The communication is manifestly ill-founded or not sufficiently substantiated;

(g) The facts that are the subject of the communication occurred prior to the entry into force of the present Protocol for the State party concerned, unless those facts continued after that date;

(h) The communication is not submitted within one year after the exhaustion of domestic remedies, except in cases where the author can demonstrate that it had not been possible to submit the communication within that time limit.

Article 8
Transmission of the communication

1. Unless the Committee considers a communication inadmissible without reference to the State party concerned, the Committee shall bring any communication submitted to it under the present Protocol confidentially to the attention of the State party concerned as soon as possible.

2. The State party shall submit to the Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matter and the remedy, if any, that it may have provided. The State party shall submit its response as soon as possible and within six months.

Article 9
Friendly settlement

1. The Committee shall make available its good offices to the parties concerned with a view to reaching a friendly settlement of the matter on the basis of respect for the obligations set forth in the Convention and/or the Optional Protocols thereto.

2. An agreement on a friendly settlement reached under the auspices of the Committee closes consideration of the communication under the present Protocol.

Article 10
Consideration of communications

1. The Committee shall consider communications received under the present Protocol as quickly as possible, in the light of all documentation submitted to it, provided that this documentation is transmitted to the parties concerned.

2. The Committee shall hold closed meetings when examining communications received under the present Protocol.

3. Where the Committee has requested interim measures, it shall expedite the consideration of the communication.

4. When examining communications alleging violations of economic, social or cultural rights, the Committee shall consider the reasonableness of the steps taken by the State party in accordance with article 4 of the Convention. In doing so, the Committee shall bear in mind that the State party may adopt a range of possible policy measures for the implementation of the economic, social and cultural rights in the Convention.

5. After examining a communication, the Committee shall, without delay, transmit its views on the communication, together with its recommendations, if any, to the parties concerned.

Article 11
Follow-up

1. The State party shall give due consideration to the views of the Committee, together with its recommendations, if any, and shall submit to the Committee a written response, including information on any action taken and envisaged in the light of the views and recommendations of the Committee. The State party shall submit its response as soon as possible and within six months.

2. The Committee may invite the State party to submit further information about any measures the State party has taken in response to its views or recommendations or implementation of a friendly settlement agreement, if any, including as deemed appropriate by the Committee, in the State party's subsequent reports under article 44 of the Convention, article 12 of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography or article 8 of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, where applicable.

Article 12
Inter-State communications

1. A State party to the present Protocol may, at any time, declare that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications in which a State party claims that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under any of the following instruments to which the State is a party:

(a) The Convention;

(b) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

(c) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

2. The Committee shall not receive communications concerning a State party that has not made such a declaration or communications from a State party that has not made such a declaration.

3. The Committee shall make available its good offices to the States parties concerned with a view to a friendly solution of the matter on the basis of the respect for the obligations set forth in the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto.

4. A declaration under paragraph 1 of the present article shall be deposited by the States parties with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall transmit copies thereof to the other States parties. A declaration may be withdrawn at any time by notification to the Secretary-General. Such a withdrawal shall not prejudice the consideration of any matter that is the subject of a communication already transmitted under the present article; no further communications by any State party shall be received under the present article after the notification of withdrawal of the declaration has been received by the Secretary-General, unless the State party concerned has made a new declaration.

Part III
Inquiry procedure

Article 13
Inquiry procedure for grave or systematic violations

1. If the Committee receives reliable information indicating grave or systematic violations by a State party of rights set forth in the Convention or in the Optional Protocols thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography or on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the Committee shall invite the State party to cooperate in the examination of the information and, to this end, to submit observations without delay with regard to the information concerned.

2. Taking into account any observations that may have been submitted by the State party concerned, as well as any other reliable information available to it, the Committee may designate one or more of its members to conduct an inquiry and to report urgently to the Committee. Where warranted and with the consent of the State party, the inquiry may include a visit to its territory.

3. Such an inquiry shall be conducted confidentially, and the cooperation of the State party shall be sought at all stages of the proceedings.

4. After examining the findings of such an inquiry, the Committee shall transmit without delay these findings to the State party concerned, together with any comments and recommendations.

5. The State party concerned shall, as soon as possible and within six months of receiving the findings, comments and recommendations transmitted by the Committee, submit its observations to the Committee.

6. After such proceedings have been completed with regard to an inquiry made in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article, the Committee may, after consultation with the State party concerned, decide to include a summary account of the results of the proceedings in its report provided for in article 16 of the present Protocol.

7. Each State party may, at the time of signature or ratification of the present Protocol or accession thereto, declare that it does not recognize the competence of the Committee provided for in the present article in respect of the rights set forth in some or all of the instruments listed in paragraph 1.

8. Any State party having made a declaration in accordance with paragraph 7 of the present article may, at any time, withdraw this declaration by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 14
Follow-up to the inquiry procedure

1. The Committee may, if necessary, after the end of the period of six months referred to in article 13 (5), invite the State party concerned to inform it of the measures taken and envisaged in response to an inquiry conducted under article 13 of the present Protocol.

2. The Committee may invite the State party to submit further information about any measures that the State party has taken in response to an inquiry conducted under article 13, including as deemed appropriate by the Committee, in the State party's subsequent reports under article 44 of the Convention, article 12 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography or article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict, where applicable.

Part IV
Final provisions

Article 15
International assistance and cooperation

1. The Committee may transmit, with the consent of the State party concerned, to United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes and other competent bodies its views or recommendations concerning communications and inquiries that indicate a need for technical advice or assistance, together with the State party's observations and suggestions, if any, on these views or recommendations.

2. The Committee may also bring to the attention of such bodies, with the consent of the State party concerned, any matter arising out of communications considered under the present Protocol that may assist them in deciding, each within its field of competence, on the advisability of international measures likely to contribute to assisting States parties in achieving progress in the implementation of the rights recognized in the Convention and/or the Optional Protocols thereto.

Article 16
Report to the General Assembly

The Committee shall include in its report submitted every two years to the General Assembly in accordance with article 44 (5) of the Convention a summary of its activities under the present Protocol.

Article 17
Dissemination of and information on the Optional Protocol

Each State party undertakes to make widely known and to disseminate the present Protocol and to facilitate access to information about the views and recommendations of the Committee, in particular with regard to matters involving the State party, by appropriate and active means and in accessible formats to adults and children alike, including those with disabilities.

Article 18
Signature, ratification and accession

1. The present Protocol is open for signature to any State that has signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention or either of the first two Optional Protocols thereto.

2. The present Protocol is subject to ratification by any State that has ratified or acceded to the Convention or either of the first two Optional Protocols thereto. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. The present Protocol shall be open to accession by any State that has ratified or acceded to the Convention or either of the first two Optional Protocols thereto.

4. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General.

Article 19
Entry into force

1. The present Protocol shall enter into force three months after the deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. For each State ratifying the present Protocol or acceding to it after the deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification or instrument of accession, the present Protocol shall enter into force three months after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 20
Violations occurring after the entry into force

1. The Committee shall have competence solely in respect of violations by the State party of any of the rights set forth in the Convention and/or the first two Optional Protocols thereto occurring after the entry into force of the present Protocol.

2. If a State becomes a party to the present Protocol after its entry into force, the obligations of that State vis-à-vis the Committee shall relate only to violations of the rights set forth in the Convention and/or the first two Optional Protocols thereto occurring after the entry into force of the present Protocol for the State concerned.

Article 21
Amendments

1. Any State party may propose an amendment to the present Protocol and submit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall communicate any proposed amendments to States parties with a request to be notified whether they favour a meeting of States parties for the purpose of considering and deciding upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months of the date of such communication, at least one third of the States parties favour such a meeting, the Secretary-General shall convene the meeting under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of two thirds of the States parties present and voting shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly for approval and, thereafter, to all States parties for acceptance.

2. An amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of the present article shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States parties at the date of adoption of the amendment. Thereafter, the amendment shall enter into force for any State party on the thirtieth day following the deposit of its own instrument of acceptance. An amendment shall be binding only on those States parties that have accepted it.

Article 22
Denunciation

1. Any State party may denounce the present Protocol at any time by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

2. Denunciation shall be without prejudice to the continued application of the provisions of the present Protocol to any communication submitted under articles 5 or 12 or any inquiry initiated under article 13 before the effective date of denunciation.

Article 23
Depositary and notification by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the depositary of the present Protocol.

2. The Secretary-General shall inform all States of:

(a) Signatures, ratifications and accessions under the present Protocol;

(b) The date of entry into force of the present Protocol and of any amendment thereto under article 21;

(c) Any denunciation under article 22.

Article 24
Languages

1. The present Protocol, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit certified copies of the present Protocol to all States.

21. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims.[1]

[1] A/66/335.